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DCI/ICS 82-4005  
7 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, Office of Community Coordination  
Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff  
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

9 APR 1982

FROM: [Redacted]  
Chairman, Intelligence Information  
Handling Committee

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SUBJECT: Adoption of Intelligence Community  
Electrical Message Format Standard

1. Action Requested: I am attaching herewith a copy of the proposed Intelligence Community Electrical Message Format Standard for your review (Tab A) and a memo (Tab B) for your signature.

2. Background: In June 1981, [Redacted] NSA, contacted me regarding a proposal that the Intelligence Community adopt a standard format for the interagency transmission of intelligence information reports in electrical form. This proposal grew out of their implementation of the WEEDER system for the handling of State cables at NSA. Experiencing unforeseen difficulty in developing WEEDER and faced with the task of implementing similar data bases for CIA and DOD IR's, NSA asked the Information Handling Committee (IHC) to investigate the possibility of adopting a single Community standard to facilitate the development of these and other similar Community information systems. I submitted the proposal to the IHC and the Committee approved the project in July 1981.

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A technical working group was established, and a draft plan was extensively coordinated at the working level within the Community. I am very pleased to report that at every stage of the development of the proposal we received enthusiastic cooperation from all elements of the Community. Representatives of organizations involved in report generation, ADP, communications, central reference services, and the Consolidated SAFE Project Office all contributed.

The report of the working group was submitted to the IHC members for agency coordination in February 1982. The proposal has now been formally concurred in by all IC components represented on the IHC. (The sole reservation was made by State, which concurred in principle but stated that they could not fully comply without additional funding for some of the programming changes which will be required of them.)

CL BY SIGNER  
REVIEW ON APRIL 1988  
DERIVED FROM MULTIPLE

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3. I believe that the adoption and promulgation of this standard will be an important milestone in implementing the principles embodied in your memo to the D/DCI/RM (Tab C) wherein you stated: "Standard interfaces, formats, protocols, and operating ground rules need to be developed that can be used for any future systems that interchange intelligence data." The spirit of Community cooperation which was exhibited in developing this standard and the degree of unanimity achieved in its coordination is a significant step forward for the Intelligence Community and should not pass unrecognized by you.

4. Recommendation: That you sign and return the attached memo, Tab B, so that I may present it to the Committee when it meets at 1400 hours on 16 April at the Community Headquarters Building for the express purpose of final consideration of the standard. I have taken the liberty of suggesting that you include in the memo some language extracted virtually verbatim from your attached memo to the D/DCI/RM for the future guidance of the work of the Committee. In addition, if it were possible to fit a brief appearance at the Committee meeting into your busy schedule to deliver a few words of approbation and encouragement, I am certain that it would greatly facilitate future progress in overcoming these often complicated and difficult problems.



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Attachments: Tabs A, B, & C

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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